

## **ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Approved**

*May 16, 2023*

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order in the main meeting room at the Community Center on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 7:00pm.

**Commission Members:** Phil, Lasker, Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg, Scott Walker, Josh Fenollosa and Sarah Carrier. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present.

**Anticipated Speakers:** Agency Landscape

**Members of the public:** David Bean, Judy Weinberg, Maryanna Foskett, Chuck Tirone, Liz Reisberg, Alexander D'Amour, Melissa Collins, Julia Kennerson

**Preliminary Matter:** Scott Walker, Park & Recreation Commission vice chair, took formal attendance and welcomed anticipated speakers and public attendees to the Recreation Commission meeting.

### **Robbins Farm Final Design Review**

Mr. Connelly gave a brief summary of the process to date stating that the feedback received was tremendous and all was taken into consideration within the final design.

Agency Landscape – Kate Tooke, Estello Regiant, and Nicholas Cook – Presented the plan to the Commission

- The presentation is attached to the minutes for reference

After the presentation the Commission reviewed and asked questions and provided feedback. The Commission as a whole was very positive about the design. Below are questions and concerns.

Ms. Rothenberg

- Surface color and equipment color
- Height of upper shed and view from top of hill

Mr. Fenollosa

- Tree additions and locations
- Picnic area and layout
- Native plantings and planting plan in general
- Accessibility of the tot truck

Ms. Carrier

- Greenery and plant bed plans and long term maintenance concerns
- Stroller parking area detail
- Signage plan and location detail

Mr. Walker

- Pathway material – Permeable verse non-permeable
- Visually impaired features

Ms. Mayer

- Truck accessibility
- Wall seating and town specifications (North Union)

Mr. Lasker

- EWF location and use
- Stabilized aggregate installation
- Budget analysis
- Signage location and plan

Public Comment

- More color
- Sponsorship plaques
  - Mr. Connelly to get information from zoning and present at future meeting
- Sensory nodes
- Playground wood material and longevity

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the final design with the following conditions to be looked at further for consideration, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

- Surface color and equipment exact colors to be determined
- Final planting plan to be reviewed
- Additional detail at the stroller parking area needed, possible addition of sensory equipment
- Wall mounted benches to be standardized with current park specifications
- Engineered wood fiber adjacent to tot truck area to be revisited
- Locations for signage be presented for a final approval, including location of the communication board
- Additional seating with the standardized park bench model be added to the Hill Slide area

### **Menotomy Playground Review**

Mr. Connelly reviewed the history of the issues at Menotomy Rocks Park and the CPA funding requests.

Mr. Lasker supported the plan to remove the playground, use FY24 ARPA funding for design services for renovations and submit a fall CPA application for constructions

Ms. Mayer also supported that action and pointed out the many accessible issues that also exist with the current playground location.

Ms. Rothenberg stated that leaving the playground in place was not an option due to cited safety concerns and make financial investment in the current structure was not responsible.

Ms. Canniff also said we should move forward with a plan for a fully renovated playground without investing funds in repairs of the existing playground.

Ms. Carrier stated that no CPSI would approve of non-certified installer or equipment improvements on this or any playground structure.

The Commission discussed ways to build trust with Ms. Weinberg who is president of the Friends of Menotomy.

Ms. Rothenberg made the following motion:

Remove existing play structure and border with appropriate tree protection

Keep the swings and add appropriate levels of EWF

Use FY24 ARPA Funds for Design

Submit emergency CPA Application for Fall Town Meeting

This motion was seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 5-0.

### **Approval of Minutes: 2/28/2023**

The minutes of April 11, 2023 tabled.

### **Comments and Items for Future Meetings:**

Discussion on improving commission communication and notifications to the public

### **Correspondence Received:**

No comments

### **New Business:** N/A

**Open Forum – Public Comment:**

- Ms. Reisberg
  - Communication feedback
  - Request for hybrid meetings
- Ms. Jones also pointed out the benefits of the hybrid meeting model.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn at 10:18pm, seconded by Ms. Canniff. Approved 5-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Joseph Connelly